



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 22-29, 2004

GREETINGS!

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the third year of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency's (CSOSA) partnership with the faith community during Reentry Week. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to commend the outstanding contributions of the mentors, CSOSA staff members, and returning offenders who are associated with this important endeavor.

The increased influx of ex-offenders returning to prison offers a challenge and opportunity for committed individuals and organizations to step into the breach and provide inspiration, options, and hope. Likewise, there are many avenues that must be pursued if we are to find immediate and long-term solutions. How successful we are, in large measure, depends on the quality of programs, like the CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership, available to the ex-offender community upon release. It is truly gratifying to see the faith community rise to the challenge of assisting these men and women in their efforts to become law-abiding residents of our city.

As we know, the lack of employment opportunities, housing, and substance abuse prevention has been linked to recidivism. However, by implementing the District's new One Stop Reentry Service Center to assist parolees with substance abuse treatment and prevention and finding sustainable employment and housing, the mentoring and assistance provided in this program will make a significant impact on the reduction of recidivism in our city thereby making our streets safer for everyone.

Once again, please accept my best wishes for continued success in your important work.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Holmes Norton